

The front cover shows a penny of Edward the Elder (899-924) found at New Inn Hall Street, together with a conjectural plan of Oxford, c. 911/912.

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same period and located on the gravel terraces bordering the alluvial flood-plain of the Thames.

Post-excavation work on material already excavated is now under way, and excavation will resume later in the year.

40: RADLEY, Tuckwell's Pit - Godfrey Jones, Roger Thomas, Jeff Wallis,
Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical
Society

A ring ditch known from aerial photographs was located after mechanical stripping of the topsoil prior to gravel extraction. Clearing showed the feature to be 10 m in diameter, with a central oval pit c. 2 m x 1.50 m. Excavation of this central pit produced a Beaker, but no traces of any accompanying skeleton (Fig. 51). Although not shown on plan, about one third of the surrounding ditch was excavated but only produced a flint arrowhead.

 STANTON HARCOURT - J W Taylor, Oxford University Archaeological Society

In October 1979 the OUAS, at the request of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit began rescue work on a site in advance of its destruction by gravel extraction. This work was made possible through the cooperation of ARC. Work was carried out in a series of weekend excavations lasting until December 1979.

The site lies 865 m south-south-west of Stanton Harcourt Church, and 220 m directly north-west of "Devil's Quoits" henge monument. It lies in the north-west quadrant of a 168 hectare (416 acre) gravel quarry (SP 4129 0489). This area is bounded on the west by the B4449 road linking Stanton Harcourt with Standlake, on the east by the River Windrush and to the north by the Eynsham road.

The site lies on the second gravel terrace of the Thames at a height of 69.52 m O.D. The immediate area was levelled during the construction of a World War II airfield. In preparation for quarrying operations ARC mechanically removed the concrete runway revealing the outline of a ring ditch on the gravel surface beneath. This feature was not observable in the aerial photographic study of the area made by Major G W Allen in 1933, prior to runway construction.

Although the ring ditch yielded no finds, the information obtained on the structural nature of the feature is valuable. The ditch was roughly circular in plan with a diameter of just over 10 m. The ditch was not continuous in the traditional sense, but consisted of a series of adjacent 'bowl-shaped' pits, being roughly oval in plan. These pits were of varying depths separated by "causeways of undisturbed gravel". These causeways as found did not extend upward to the present ground level. Only in the south-west quadrant of the ring ditch did the causeway reach ground level to form a

narrow flat-topped 'entrance'. In section the sides were rather steep, rounding towards the bottom.

A remarkably close parallel can be found in the causewayed cremation-cemetery, Site V, of Atkinson, Piggott and Sandars, Excavations at Dorchester, Oxon., 1951, pp. 43-50. The Stanton Harcourt site, however, yielded no cremation remains, only three small deposits of charcoal. No other direct dateable evidence was found.

42. THAME by-pass

The construction of the Thame by-pass went ahead rapidly in 1979. The Thame Historical Society kept a watch on the earthmoving operations during the summer and autumn but no archaeological material was recovered.

43. THAME, 4-5 High Street

Foundation work for the new Boots branch store revealed a buildup of Post-Medieval soils. No trace of any Medieval occupation was observed.

44. WALLINGFORD, 5-7 Castle Street

Following the demolition of nos 5-7 situated on the west side of Castle Street, the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society excavated a trial trench to examine the quality and depth of archaeological stratification from the Medieval and late Saxon town. Most of the ground had been deeply disturbed during the Post-Medieval period although cleaning two foundation trenches both dug to a depth of 1.2 m along the present frontage revealed deep and relatively undisturbed stratification extending beneath the pavement at a depth of about 1 m. Pottery suggested a 12th - 13th century date range for the uppermost levels. This would, if correct, fit in with the diversion of the road running northwards out of Wallingford to its present position along Castle Street (PRN 12,117 and 12, 118).

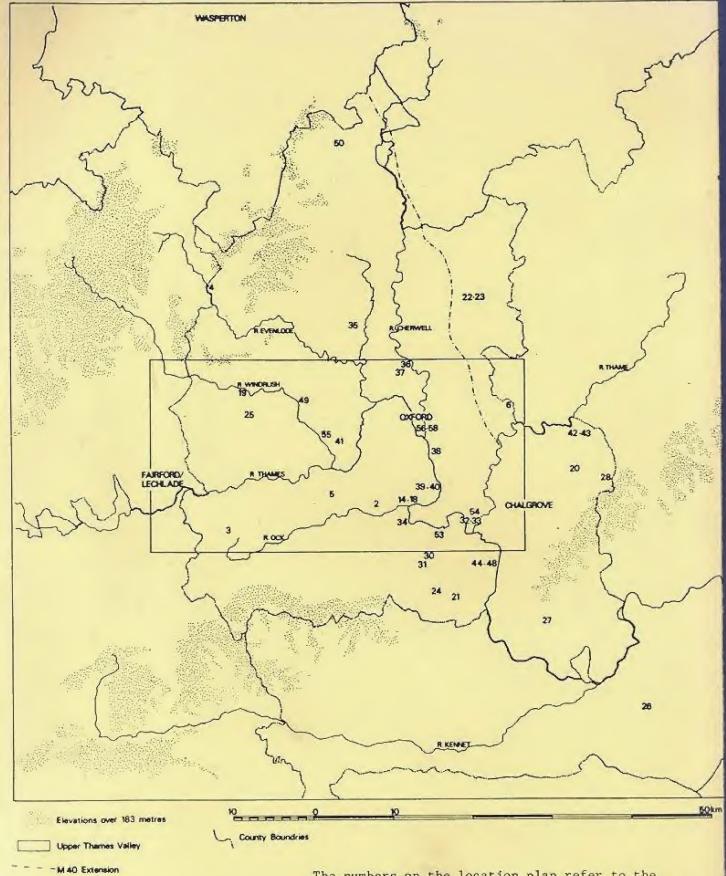
45. WALLINGFORD, Former Usher Brewery Site, Goldsmith's Lane

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society has maintained a watching brief on this site which lies at the junction between High Street and Goldsmith's Lane. Extensive alteration work on the old brewery buildings involves little groundwork but some useful sections were seen which may indicate the archaeology underlying this site will be exposed in 1980.

The numbers on the location plan refer to the numbers of the summary reports with the exception of the main post-excavation projects. These projects are as follows: 52, Abingdon, Barton Court Farm villa; 53, Appleford, Iron Age and Roman site; 54, Berinsfield, Mount Farm multi-period site, 55; Hardwick, Iron Age site; 56, Oxford, the Hamel; 57, Oxford 31-34 Church Street; 58, Oxford, All Saints Church, High Street.

Alphabetical List of Projects: the numbers after each project relate to the Interim Notes and the location plan.

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